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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:
Claims 10 – 13 and 22 are being canceled without prejudice in order to expedite the allowance of the remaining claims.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:
a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a pin for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
equipment mounting hardware; and attachment devices for securing said equipment mounting hardware to said spine member.
2. (canceled) A carrier system for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:
a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a securing member for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
a first set of equipment mounting hardware;
an attachment mechanism for removably securing said first set of equipment mounting hardware directly to said spine member;
a second set of equipment mounting hardware; and
a second attachment mechanism for removably securing said second set of equipment mounting hardware directly to said spine member with said cargo platform removed.
3. (canceled) The carrier system of claim 2 wherein said first set of equipment mounting hardware comprises:
a cargo carrying platform.
4. (canceled) The carrier system of claim 2 wherein said second set of equipment mounting hardware includes:
bicycle mounting hardware.

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5. (canceled) The carrier system of claim 2 wherein said second set of equipment mounting hardware includes:

at least one channel member mounted transversely on said spine member; and
bicycle mounting hardware attached to said at least one channel member.

6. (canceled) The carrier system of claim 2 wherein said carrier system includes:
said first set of equipment mounting hardware includes a cargo platform; and said
second set of equipment mounting hardware includes at least one channel member
mounted onto said cargo platform.

7. (canceled) A carrier system for transporting equipment, said carrier system
comprising:

a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a securing member for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
a cargo platform;
an attachment mechanism for removably securing said cargo platform directly to
said spine member;
bicycle mounting hardware; and
a second attachment mechanism for removably securing said bicycle mounting
hardware directly to said spine member with said cargo platform removed.

8. (canceled) The carrier system of claim 7 wherein said bicycle mounting
hardware includes:

at least one channel member transversely mounted onto said spine member.

9. (canceled) A carrier system for transporting equipment, said carrier system
comprising:

a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a securing member for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
a cargo platform;

an attachment mechanism for removably securing said cargo platform directly to said spine member;

at least one channel member for carrying a bicycle; and

a second attachment mechanism for removably securing said at least channel member transversely and directly to said spine member with the removal of said cargo platform.

Claim 10. (canceled) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:
a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;
a pin for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;
equipment mounting hardware;
said equipment mounting hardware includes a platform removably mounted onto said spine member;
a cover removably mountable on said platform for protecting the equipment from damage or theft; and
attachment devices for securing said equipment mounting hardware to said spine member.

Claim 11. (canceled) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said cover is comprised of:
a durable material.

Claim 12. (canceled) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said cover is comprised of:
an enclosed cargo box mountable onto said spine member.

Claim 13. (canceled) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said equipment mounting hardware further includes:
elongated members having "C" shaped channels;
said "C" shaped channels including an inverted rim along the interior of said "C" shaped channels; and
a mounting mechanism engaged against said inverted rim for securing said equipment mounting hardware .

14. (canceled) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said equipment mounting hardware further includes:

elongated members having "C" shaped channels formed there mountable onto said platform.

15. (previously presented) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:

a spine member removably engageable in a hitch receiver of a vehicle;

a pin for securing said spine member to said hitch receiver;

equipment mounting hardware;

said equipment mounting hardware includes at least one elongated member having a C shaped channel mountable onto said spine member;

said "C" shaped channels including an inverted rim along the interior of said C shaped channels; and

at least one mounting mechanism engaged against said inverted rim for securing said equipment mounting hardware.

16. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

an enclosed cargo box mountable onto said spine member.

17. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

a platform mountable onto said spine member.

18. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

a platform mountable onto said spine member; and

a flexible cover mountable onto said platform.

19. (previously presented) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

- a platform mountable onto said spine member; and
- an enclosed box-mountable onto said platform.

20. (canceled) The carrier of claim 15 wherein said carrier further includes:

- a platform mountable onto said spine member; and
- at least on elongated member having a "C" shaped channel mountable on said platform.

21. (previously presented) A carrier for transporting equipment, said carrier comprising:

- mounting hardware for mounting equipment to said carrier;
- said mounting hardware includes at least one elongated member having a C shaped channel;
- said C shaped channels including an inverted rim along the interior of said C shaped channels;
- at least one mounting mechanism for attaching said mounting hardware to said C shaped channels; and
- said at least one mounting mechanism containing an indent for engaging with said inverted rim.

22. (canceled) The carrier of claim 10 wherein said cover includes:

- a flexible cover.